



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Northeastern Area  
State & Private  
Forestry

180 Canfield Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400  
Date: November 20, 2003

Mr. Wayne P. Claus  
National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory  
APHIS PPQ NPGBL BARC EAST  
Building 580 Beltsville, MD 20705

Dear Wayne:

On September 30, 2003, Forest Service personnel conducted a gypsy moth egg mass survey at the National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory (NPGBL). The purpose of this survey was to evaluate the efficacy of the suppression project conducted this past Spring and to assess the potential for defoliation and the need for treatment in 2004.

The location of the survey plots are shown in Figure 1. In brief, no new egg masses were detected at any of the 2 plots. No defoliation was detected at NPGBL during the aerial detection survey conducted on June 16 (see report dated July 15).

It was not expected that a suppression project using the biological insecticide Gypchek would provide 100 percent foliage protection and a 100 percent gypsy moth population reduction. Based on results of previous suppression projects using Gypchek, foliage protection was expected on approximately 75 percent of the treatment area along with a gypsy moth population reduction in the 50-75 percent range. It is very likely that the results of this year's suppression project was aided by a natural decline of the gypsy moth in the area.

Since no noticeable defoliation is expected, treatment is not recommended in 2004 at NPGBL.

Also for your information, no egg masses were found at the other adjacent federal sites.

Please call me at (304) 285-1555 if you have any questions regarding the egg mass survey or this letter.

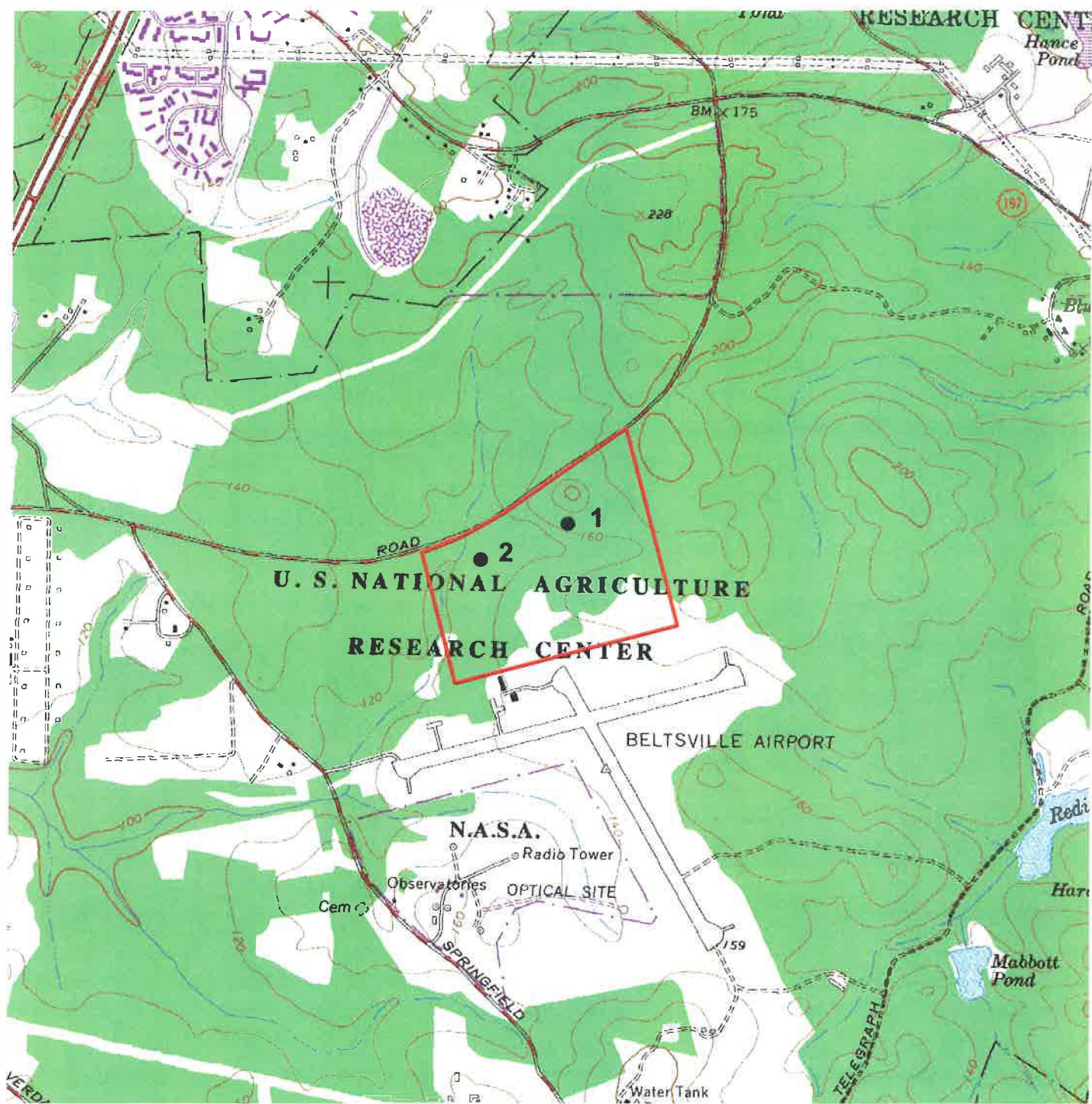
Sincerely,

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN  
Forester  
Forest Health Protection

Cc: Robert Tichenor, MDA  
Sally Hughes, MDA  
Noel Schneeberger, AO  
Dennis Souto, DPO  
Michael Connor, SPAO



Figure 1.--Gypsy moth egg mass survey plot locations at the National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Laboratory, September 2003.



0.25 0 0.25 0.5 Miles



Plot locations

● 0 egg masses per acre

~ Approximate NPGBL property